

Southern WV Accident Alert



A roof bolting machine operator was fatally injured as he was preparing to install the first row of roof support in the # 1 entry. The first cut had been taken from the highwall to develop a drift opening for a new underground mine. The victim had approximately 11 years of mining experience, with less than a week at this mine.



Preventive Practices:

- ✓ A ground control plan must be in place which is compatible with the geologic conditions at the site.
- ✓ Highwall development must be of sufficient penetration to provide competent roof rock.
- ✓ A method to install canopies shall be used which protects persons from falling materials at drift openings. Canopies shall fit within the mine opening to prevent unnecessary exposure to roof rock.
- ✓ All highwalls must be evaluated before approval of roof control plans and ground control plans.